

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Michael Mahoney et al.

Application No. 10/579,146

Confirmation No. 8927

Filed: May 12, 2006

Art Unit: 3775

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL  
SURGERY

Examiner: Larry E. Waggle, Jr.

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any papers referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being sent via EFS Web on the date shown below.  
Dated: January 13, 2010      Signature: Ronald E. Cahill  
(Ronald E. Cahill)

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated September 17, 2009.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begins at page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Specification** begins at page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begins at page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.

Seven (7) **Replacement Sheets** are attached hereto.